

4 an elastic member interposed radially between the
5 joint member and the hollow shaft member to flex and deform
6 upon relative rotation between the joint member and the
7 hollow shaft member;

8 stopper portions provided, respectively, on the joint
9 member and the hollow shaft member to restrict the relative
10 rotation therebetween within a predetermined amount; and

11 the stopper portions provided on said joint member
12 each including a pair of stopper faces spaced from each
13 other in a peripheral direction to form a gap therebetween,

14 the stopper portions provided on said hollow shaft
15 member each being radially outwardly projected into said
16 gap formed between said stopper faces of the corresponding
17 stopper portion provided on said joint member,

18 said stopper portions on said hollow shaft member
19 being formed by flaring an end of the hollow shaft member
20 to be projected radially outwardly.

1 11. (New) An elastic shaft coupling according to
2 claim 10, wherein said hollow shaft member is a steel pipe
3 of a low carbon steel.

1 12. (New) An elastic shaft coupling according to
2 claim 10, wherein the stopper portions on said hollow
3 shaft member are provided with ribs for reinforcement.

1 13. (New) An elastic shaft coupling according to
2 claim 10, wherein the outer diameter of each said stopper
3 portion on said hollow shaft member is formed smaller
4 than the outer diameter of the corresponding stopper
5 portion on said joint member.

1 14. (New) An elastic shaft coupling according to
2 claim 10, wherein radially outermost points of contact of
3 each stopper portion on said hollow shaft member with the
4 corresponding stopper faces on said joint member are
5 disposed inwardly from respective centers of said stopper
6 faces along a radial direction.

1 15. (New) A method of manufacturing a coupling
2 element which is formed by interposing between a joint
3 member and a hollow shaft member an elastic member which
4 flexes and deforms upon a relative rotation between these
5 members and forming stopper portions which restrict the
6 relative rotation within a predetermined amount

7 respectively on the joint member and the hollow shaft
8 member, comprising the step of:

9 forming each of the stopper portions on said hollow
10 shaft member by flaring an end of said hollow shaft
11 member into the shape of a flange while applying a
12 pressing force in the axial direction onto said hollow
13 shaft member.

1 16. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein
2 said hollow shaft member is formed of a low carbon steel
3 pipe.

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(cont)

1 17. (New) An elastic shaft coupling comprising:
2 a joint member formed with a hole;
3 a hollow shaft member received in the joint member,
4 said hollow shaft member having an original wall thickness
5 (t_2);
6 an elastic member interposed radially between the
7 joint member and the hollow shaft member to flex and deform
8 upon relative rotation between the joint member and the
9 hollow shaft member;

10 stopper portions provided, respectively, on the joint
11 member and the hollow shaft member to restrict the relative
12 rotation therebetween within a predetermined amount; and
13 the stopper portions provided on said joint member
14 each including a pair of stopper faces spaced from each
15 other in a peripheral direction to form a gap therebetween,
16 the stopper portions provided on said hollow shaft
17 member each being radially outwardly projected into said
18 gap formed between said stopper faces of the corresponding
19 stopper portion provided on said joint member,
20 said stopper portions on said hollow shaft member
21 being formed by flaring an end of the hollow shaft member
22 while applying axial pressure on said end to produce a root
(cont) 23 portion of the stopper portion on the hollow shaft member
24 having an thickness (t_1) greater than the original wall
25 thickness (t_2) of said hollow shaft member.

1 18. (New) An elastic shaft coupling according to
2 claim 17 , wherein the stopper portions on said hollow
3 shaft member are provided with ribs for reinforcement.

1 19. (New) An elastic shaft coupling according to
2 claim 17, wherein the outer diameter of each said stopper

3 portion on said hollow shaft member is formed smaller
4 than the outer diameter of the corresponding stopper
5 portion on said joint member.

1 20. (New) An elastic shaft coupling according to
2 claim 17, wherein radially outermost points of contact of
3 each stopper portion on said hollow shaft member with the
4 corresponding stopper faces on said joint member are
5 disposed inwardly from respective centers of said stopper
6 faces along a radial direction.

1 21. (New) An elastic shaft coupling according to
2 claim 17, wherein said hollow shaft member is formed of a
3 low carbon steel pipe.

1 22. (New) A method of manufacturing a coupling
2 element which is formed by interposing between a joint
3 member and a hollow shaft member an elastic member which
4 flexes and deforms upon a relative rotation between these
5 members and forming stopper portions which restrict the
6 relative rotation within a predetermined amount
7 respectively on the joint member and the hollow shaft
8 member, comprising the step of: